

Mary Is Holy

Engage: Page 81

- ▶ Write the word *mother* vertically down the side of a sheet of paper. Together think of words and phrases beginning with each letter that describe why mothers are special.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *We are going to talk about a mother whom everyone shares.* **Ask:** *Who is she? (Mary)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn about how Mary was blessed by God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to transfer the words about mothers from your paper to a large poster board to display in your home. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 82–83

- ▶ Together find images of Mary in books and online. **Ask:** *Where else can we see images of Mary? (statue in church, statue or painting in a museum, on Mass cards)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *The Church Celebrates Mary and We Are All One* on page 82. **Say:** *Mary is an excellent example of what it means to be a saint because she devoted her life to serving God.* **Ask:** *How can we be like Mary? (trust in God always, care for others, listen to God)* **Say:** *When we pray together as the Church, we become one body with those who have already died.* **Ask:** *What is one word to describe the Communion of Saints? (togetherness, one, united)*
- ▶ Read aloud the *Link to Liturgy* feature. **Say:** *In 1846 the U. S. bishops placed our country under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We celebrate her Immaculate Conception on December 8.*
- ▶ Read aloud *We Pray the Rosary* on page 83 and point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *We just finished learning the last part of the Apostle's Creed, so you now know all the prayers used for the Rosary.*
- ▶ Read aloud the *Did You Know?* feature. **Say:** *The Rosary is such an important prayer that the Church encourages us to pray it. October 7 is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.*

Art Exploration: Page 240

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Mary receiving good news from an angel about God's blessing.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how Mary feels about the angel.
- ▶ **Say:** *God called Mary to be the mother of his Son, of the Church, and all of God's children*

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- ▶ Have your child turn to page 240. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Mary, Full of Grace*. **Ask:** *What did Gabriel say to Mary? (that she was going to have a baby) How did Mary react? (happy, excited, felt blessed)*
- ▶ Read aloud *Mary As Our Mother* and have your child complete the activity. Together discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *Why did Elizabeth say that Mary was blessed? (Because Mary trusted in God, he gave her his most precious gift of all—his Son, Jesus.*
- ▶ Invite your child to think about what it would be like to visit a mother and her new baby. **Ask:** *What would you say and do? Would you ask to hold the baby, help with chores, bring food, ask questions?* Role-play visiting Mary and baby Jesus, improvising a conversation with her.

Reflect: Pages 84–85

- ▶ Together look at page 84. **Say:** *As you pray each Hail Mary, think about one of the five Joyful Mysteries and its importance in the lives of Mary and Jesus.*
- ▶ **Say:** *Try to picture each event I describe.* Invite your child to close his or her eyes as you read aloud each description of the Joyful Mysteries, pausing between each one. Read aloud the last paragraph and give your child time to reflect. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Mary's Song of Praise* on page 85. **Ask:** *Why were Mary and Elizabeth so happy? (They were going to have very special children.) Who were these children? (Jesus and John the Baptist) Say: Mary prayed the Magnificat to praise God for the great things he had done for her.*
- ▶ Read aloud *I'm Thankful for...* Give your child time to reflect before he or she makes the list.

Respond: Page 86

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can show love for Mary and follow her example of faith and love.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the *With My Family* suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.